

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 028286

O 241235Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4468

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 2738

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CB, JO

SUBJECT: SECOND CAMBODIAN REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM -
AMBASSADOR HONG HOENG DOEUNG

REF: (A) AMMAN 2621; (B) STATE 090644

1. SUMMARY: IN SECOND CASE THIS WEEK, KHMER AMBASSADOR HAS REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM IN U.S. FOR HIMSELF, WIFE AND SIX FAMILY MEMBERS RESIDENT AMMAN INCLUDING TWO WHO WORKED FOR U.S. EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH. AMBASSADOR DOEUNG GAVE AMBASSADOR LETTER TO SECRETARY KISSINGER WHOM HE MET DURING 1973 ARTICLE 20 NEGOTIATIONS IN PARSI, WHEN DOEUNG WAS CHARGE. DOEUNG HAS DISTINGUISHED DIPLOMATIC CAREER, WAS CLOSE ADVISOR OF LON NOL AND LONG BORET. ONCE JAILED BY SIHANOUK AND WITH LONG ACTIVE ANTI-COMMUNIST CAREER, HE APPEARS LIKELY TO SUFFER PERSECUTION IF HE RETURNED TO CAMBODIA. DOEUNG IS ALSO FORMER TEACHER KHMER ROUGE LEADER KIEW SAMPHAN AND DOUBTS WHETHER RECENT WIREPHOTO PICTURE WITH SIHANOUK IS ACTUALLY OF SAMPHAN. DOEUNG IS IN NO DANGER, GOJ HAS ASSURED HIM OF ABILITY REMAIN JORDAN FOR TIME BEING AND HE IS IN NO FINANCIAL NEED. HE SAYS ALL FIVE MEMBERS OF EMBASSY AND FAMILIES INTEND REQUEST POLITICAL ASYLUM IN U.S. BUT REQUESTS WE NOT INFORM GOJ FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THESE REQUESTS. END SUMMARY.

2. KHMER AMBASSADOR DOEUNG CALLED ON AMBASSADOR APRIL 24 DURING WHICH HE REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM FOR HIMSELF AND FAMILY AND LEFT LETTER FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER REQUESTING ASYLUM, INCLUDING CURRICULUM VITAE AND CERTIFICATES FROM U.S. EMBASSY
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PHNOM PENH THAT DAUGHTERS HONG VATHANA AND HONG DAVY WORKED FOR

EMBASSY. WE ARE POUCHING LONG LETTER (IN FRENCH) TO DEPARTMENT
UNDER COVERING AIRGRAM.

3. IN SUMMARY, LETTER REQUESTS POLITICAL ASYLUM FOR FOLLOWING
PERSONS ALL RESIDENT IN AMMAN. (KHMER PASSPORT DATA ALSO
INCLUDED).

A. HONG HOEUNG DOEUNG, AMBASSADOR OF KHMER REPUBLIC TO JORDAN;
B. MRS HONG HOEUNG DOEUNG, WIFE;
C. MRS HEM DORA, DAUGHTER, AGE 25; WORKED AT EMBASSY OF U.S.
IN PHNOM PENH;
D. MR HEM DORA, SON-IN-LAW FILM PRODUCER, AGE 26;
E. MISS HONG VITHANA, DAUGHTER, AGE 24; WORKED AT U.S. EMBASSY
IN PHNOM PENH;
F. MISS HONG VIRA, DAUGHTER, AGE 21, STUDENT;
G. MR HONG WITHYAWUTH, SON, AGE 19, STUDENT;
H. MISS HONG LYDIA, DAUGHTER, AGE 13, STUDENT;

4. LETTER STATES HE REQUESTS POLITICAL ASYLUM IN U.S. BECAUSE
IT NOW EVIDENT THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF KHMER ROUGE WOULD
REJECT HIM AND ONLY PERMIT HIS RE-ENTRY TO CAMBODIA IN ORDER
TO PERSECUTE HIM AND HIS FAMILY, BECAUSE OF HIS ANTI-COMMUNISM
AND HIS ASSOCIATION WITH LON NOL REGIME IN WHICH HE CLOSELY
COLLABORATED WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT BOTH AT U.N. AND AT PARIS.
LETTER STATES HE BELIEVES, WITH HELP OF USG, HE COULD WORK AS
EXPERT IN PUBLIC IN PRIVATE SECTOR CITING HIS 29 YEARS OF
SERVICE AS PROFESSOR OF FRENCH AND AS DIPLOMAT AS PROFESSIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS. HIS TWO DAUGHTERS AND SON-IN-LAW COULD ALSO
WORK, WHICH WOULD ALLOW THEM DECENT LIVING IN U.S. AND TO
ESCAPE "A CERTAIN PERSECUTION OF PART OF KHMER ROUGE COMMUNISTS".
LETTER CLOSES EXPRESSING TO SECRETARY HIS GRATITUDE AND UNTIRING
DEVOTION TO U.S. AND TO FREE WORLD IN GENERAL.

5. DOEUNG'S CURRICULUM VITAE:

1946-54- SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER;
1954- DIRECTOR, ECOLE DES BEAUX ARTS;
1955-60- CHEF DE BUREAU IN FOREIGN MINISTRY;
1960-4- FIRST SECRETARY, CAMBODIAN EMBASSY CAIRO;
1964-6- DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AFFAIRS,
FOREIGN MINISTRY;
1966-70- COUNSELOR, CAMBODIAN EMBASSY RANGOON;
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1971- DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, FOREIGN MINISTRY;
1971-4- MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY, CHARGE D'AFFAIRS A.I.
OF KHMER EMBASSY, PARIS;
DIPLOMAS:
--SECONDARY STUDIES;
--PEDAGOGICAL STUDIES;
INSTITUT NATIONAL D'ETUDES JURIDIQUES, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS;
--ANCIEN ELEVE DE L'ECOLE NATIONALE D'ADMINISTRATION, FIRST

PROMOTION OF DIPLOMATIC SECTION;
DECORATIONS:
--MEDAILLES DE L'ORDRE DU MERITE DU NIL;
--MEDAILLE DE L'ORDRE DU MERITE FRANCAIS.

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ACTION SS-25

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O 241235Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4469

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 AMMAN 2738

EXDIS

6. AMBASSADOR GAVE FOLLOWING REASONS HE IS SURE
HE WOULD BE PERSECUTED UPON RETURN TO CAMBODIA.
HE IS A WELL-KNOWN POLITICAL OPPONENT TO SIHANOUK
AND HAS LONG ANTI-COMMUNIST RECORD. IN JANUARY, 1954,
SIHANOUK JAILED HIM FOR SIX MONTHS FOR HIS COLLABORATION
WITH SIN HUK TAN IN ANTI-COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN.
HE WAS SEC GEN OF PARTI DEMOCRAT IN 1952-54 WHICH
ORGANIZED ELECTIONS AGAINST SIHANOUK.

7. MORE RECENTLY HE RALLIED SUPPORT IN 1970 IN EMBASSY IN
RANGOON FOR LON NOL GOVERNMENT, WAS DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS
IN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THEN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES
IN PARIS 1971-73. IN LATTER CAPACITY, HE WORKED
CLOSELY WITH USG DURING PARIS PEACE TALKS. HIS
PRIMARY CONTACT WAS MARK PRATT, INTERMEDIARY
BETWEEN HIS GOVERNMENT AND US DELEGATION.
HE MET DR KISSINGER IN 1973 AS ASSOCIATE WITH
GENERAL SAK SUTSAKHAN DURING SIGNING OF ARTICLE XX
REGARDING RETREAT OF FOREIGN FORCES FROM CAMBODIA.

8. REGARDING IMMEDIATE SITUATION, HE INDICATED
GOJ FOREIGN MINISTRY ASSURED HIM HE AND MEMBERS
OF MISSION MAY REMAIN IN JORDAN FOR IMMEDIATE
FUTURE. EMBASSY HAS SUFFICIENT FINANCIAL RESOURCES

FOR ANOTHER TWO MONTHS AND HE SEES NO IMMEDIATE
ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW REGIME EMBASSY HERE. HE HAS
SOME PERSONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES WHICH COULD TIDE
THEM OVER FOR A SHORT PERIOD AFTER ARRIVAL IN US.

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HE HAS TWENTY HECTARES PLUS SEVERAL HOUSES IN
CAMBODIA BUT HAS NO HOPE OF UTILIZING THEM. HE HAS
A MOTHER-IN-LAW, A BROTHER AND SOME OTHER RELATIVES
IN CAMBODIA. HE HAS NO RELATIONS IN THE US.

9. HE INDICATED HE IS A FORMER TEACHER OF PREVIOUS
PREMIER LONG BORET, AS WELL AS NEW KHMER ROUGE
PREMIER KIEW SAMPHAN. INCIDENTIALLY, HE MENTIONED
THAT RECENT WIRE PHOTO OF SAMPHAN WITH SIHANOUK
RAISED DOUBTS IN HIS MIND WHETHER INDIVIDUAL WAS
ACTUALLY SAMPHAN. BASED ON HIS RECOLLECTION, THE
INDIVIDUAL IN THE PHOTOGRAPH APPEARED TALLER IN
RELATION TO SIHANOUK THAN SAMPHAN AND DID NOT RESEMBLE HIM.

10. AMBASSADOR DOEUNG SAID HE BELIEVES ALL FIVE
OFFICERS OF KHMER EMBASSY IN AMMAN WILL REQUEST
POLITICAL ASYLUM IN U.S. (EMBASSY COUNSELLOR
WHO EARLIER REQUESTED SAYLUM HOWEVER ASKED US PRIOR TO
AMBASSADOR'S MEETING NOT TO INFORM AMBASSADOR DOEUNG OF
THAT FACT.) AMBASSADOR REQUESTED, HOWEVER, THAT WE
NOT INFORM GOJ OF HIS REQUEST FOR TIME BEING.

1. WE RESPONDED BY STATING THAT WE COULD OBVIOUSLY
MAKE NO COMMITMENT REGARDING POLITICAL ASYLUM REQUEST
BUT WOULD FORWARD IT EXPEDITIOUSLY TO USG.
AMBASSADOR IS PATIENT BUT OBVIOUSLY HOPEFUL THAT HIS
LONG AND DISTINGUISHED RECORD OF ANTI-COMMUNISM AND
SERVICE TO PREVIOUS REGIME, ALONG WITH OBVIOUS
PERSECUTION HE WOULD SUFFER IF RETURNED TO CAMBODIA,
WILL PROVIDE AMPLE GROUNDS FOR SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION
OF HIS REQUEST. HE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF MISSION
APPEAR COMFORTABLE FOR PRESENT AND UNDER NO DURESS
OR FINANCIAL HARDSHIP. THEY WILL, HOWEVER, EXPECT
SOME ANSWER IN NEAR FUTURE. THEY ALL APPEAR TO
DISMISS PROSPECTS OF POLITICAL ASYLUM IN JORDAN AS
PATENTLY UNFEASIBLE. NOR DO THEY HAVE ANY ACTIVE
PROSPECT OF RESETTLING OUTSIDE U.S., DESPITE OUR
ATTEMPTS TO PROBE ALTERNATIVES (AS SUGGESTED PARA 3
REFTEL B).
PICKERING

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